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Title : Need to release the second instalment of grant recommended by 13th Finance Commission to Zila and Mandal Praja Parishad of Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): I would like to raise the issue of releasing second installment of grant in respect of Zilla Praja Parishad, Vizianagaram and Mandal Praja Parishads of Vizianagaram district under the 13th Finance Commission. The first installment of grant released had been completely utilized by the MPDOs at Mandal level as well as at Zilla Praja Parishad level. Providing drinking water to the people is one of the components of the flagship programme of the Central government.

During the special review meeting held by the District Collector, Vizianagaram with MPDOs on 1st March, 2012, all the MPDOs have jointly echoed that due to lack of funds either under 9 per cent general funds or with 13th finance grant, the proposed crash programme keeping in view the ensuing summer, cannot be conducted and requested to ensure that second installment be released before the start of the Summer season.

In this connection, I have learnt through reliable sources that the Government of India is not releasing grant recommended by 13th Finance Commission to Andhra Pradesh State due to non conduct of elections to the local bodies so far. Vizianagaram District is the most backward district in Andhra Pradesh and it is facing acute drinking water problem in every summer season. Due to non-release of second installment to the non-scheduled areas we are unable to provide drinking water and undertake repair of hand pumps/bore wells, PWS and MPWS schemes at the mandal level as well as at the district and panchayat level. This amount is not meant for creating new infrastructure. It is only for maintenance of the existing infrastructure. Nine per cent of the grant of the general fund has to be utilized for the drinking water.

I request the Minister of Panchayati Raj Department to release the second installment immediately before the onset of the summer.